

PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

3RD QUARTER REAL ESTATE TAXES ARE DUE FEBRUARY 1ST.

Community fire tips from the MFD

This is the first in a series of informational and timely articles from the Montgomery Fire department. Here's how we can all help to make our community safer.

- **Response Time:** The MFD requests you look at your house from the road. We will respond when you call 911 but...are the street house numbers visible from the road? Please put your address/house number where we can see it when responding in an emergency. This will benefit all of us by allowing The MFD to quickly and efficiently locate you.
- **Carbon Monoxide (CO) Safety:** (CO) gas is produced whenever any fuel, such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. Exposure to (CO) can produce flu like symptoms and can lead to unconsciousness and death. If you suspect (CO) exposure get out of your house or car and get to fresh air. Call 911 from your neighbors house or cell phone. Leave your house as it is; this may help us locate the cause of the excessive (CO). **PROTECT YOUR FAMILY!** Install an approved and certified (CO) alarm/detectors on every level of your home except unfinished basements or attics. Follow the instructions carefully, if you have questions contact the Fire Dept and we will assist. Detailed Carbon Monoxide (CO) Safety pamphlets are available upon request at The Town Hall or



154 Main Road
Montgomery, MA

Office: (413) 862-4505
Fax: (413) 862-4505
wsservice@nutmegtrucks.com

MFD or online at the Fire Factors website, Office of the State Fire Marshal, www.mass.gov/dfs.

- **Open Burning:** Burning season is Jan. 15 to May 1, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. A permit is required. Permits can be attained by calling the Fire Dept business phone, 862-4505 and leaving a detailed message with name, date you are burning, complete address and best phone number to reach you. Open burning must be at least 75 feet from any building. Brush and forestry debris are all that is permitted to be burned. Grass, hay, leaves, stumps, or construction material is prohibited to be burned. An adult should always be present until fire is completely extinguished. Water supply must be on hand. Call 911 immediately if the fire appears to be getting out of hand. The permit can be rescinded at any time due to weather conditions.

More Open Burning tips can be found online at the Fire Factors website, Office of the State Fire Marshal, www.mass.gov/dfs.

The Montgomery Fire Department thanks you for your support.

NEWS from the Town Clerk

The Annual Town Election will be held on Monday May 7th from 12:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Positions on the ballot will be, Selectmen, Moderator, Assessor, Trustee of the A.P. Pettis Fund, Constable, Library Trustee, Regional School Committee Representative, and Tree Warden.

If you have any interest in running for any of these positions nomination papers can be picked up at the town hall during regular office hours. They are located on the front table. You need at least twenty registered voters to sign and needs to be returned to the Town Clerk by Friday March 23rd at 5:00.

Please come to vote and show your support for our town officials who put a lot of time and effort in their positions for all of us. If you need an absentee ballot for the election please feel free to call the Town Clerk, Judy Murphy, at 413-862-4478.



“Have a heart that never hardens, and a temper that never tires, and a touch that never hurts.”

Charles Dickens (Born Feb. 7)

Important numbers

FIRE EMERGENCY 911
 AMBULANCE 911
 STATE POLICE 911
 HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT 862-4037

GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL 685-1102
 GATEWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL 685-1202
 GMS ATTENDANCE 685-1201
 LITTLEVILLE ELEMENTARY 685-1301

TOWN HALL OFFICE 862-3386
 townhall@montgomeryma.gov
 Administrative Secretary Hours, Tuesdays
 & Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FIRE DEPT: 862-4505
 DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF - CHRIS GALIPEAU
 862-4599

TOWN CLERK - JUDY MURPHY 862-4478

POLICE DEPT:
 ADMINISTRATIVE POLICE CHIEF -
 PAULA CHAPMAN 862-4949

TAX COLLECTOR - JANE THIELEN 862-3386

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER -
 PHIL CAMP 862-4976

SELECT BOARD:
 DAN JACQUES 862-9001
 WAYNE MORSE 862-4023
 JACOB CHAPMAN 862-4949
 Meetings for the Select Board are held at
 7:00 p.m. every other Thursday.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE:
 MADELYN AUSTIN 862-4004
 mrrrr@verizon.net

LIBRARY:
 LIBRARIAN - PAULA LONG 862-3894
 montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com

HOURS: Tuesday 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
 Thursday 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
 Saturday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS:
 Meetings of the Board of Assessors are held
 on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month
 from 8:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Please call 862-3386
 for an appointment. Assessors' Clerk
 hours 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month
 from Noon - 4 p.m.

State Senator Don Humason:
 64 Noble St., Westfield, MA 01085
 (413) 568-1366
 Donald.Humason@masenate.gov

State Representative Peter V. Kocot:
 Rep.PeterKocot@hou.state.ma.us
 (413) 582-6111

February Calendar

Feb. 1 3rd Quarter Real Estate Taxes Due
 Feb. 1 6:30 pm - GRSD Planning Committee (GRSD - Middle
 School, Rm 112/114)
 Feb. 2 9:30 -11:00 am - Osteoporosis Exercise - Town Hall
 Feb. 6 Recycling day
 Feb. 7 6:30 pm - Yoga - Town Hall
 Feb. 9 9:30 -11:00 am - Osteoporosis Exercise - Town Hall
 Feb. 10 1:00 pm - COA presents "Mabel and Jerry" - Town Hall
 Feb. 13 10:00 am - COA Coffee Hour - Town Hall
 Feb. 14 6:30 pm - Yoga - Town Hall
 Feb. 14 7:00 pm - GRSD School Committee (GRSD - Middle
 School, Rm 112/114)
 Feb. 16 9:30 -11:00 am - Osteoporosis Exercise - Town Hall
 Feb. 20 Recycling day
 Feb. 21 6:30 pm - Yoga - Town Hall
 Feb. 22 7:00 pm - Selectboard Meeting - Town Hall
 Feb. 23 9:30 -11:00 am - Osteoporosis Exercise - Town Hall
 Feb. 27 10:00 am - COA Coffee Hour - Town Hall
 Feb. 28 6:30 pm - Yoga - Town Hall

Paula L. Chapman

Administrative Chief of Police for the Town of Montgomery

OFFICE HOURS 6:30 pm TO 7:45 pm

FEB. 8th
 FEB. 22nd

MARCH 8th
 MARCH 22nd

APRIL 5th
 APRIL 19th

MAY 3rd
 MAY 17th
 MAY 31st

MOUNTAIN BREEZE AD POLICY

Montgomery resident ads: \$3.50 for ¼ page, \$7.00 for ½ page, \$10.50 for ¾ page and \$14.00 for a full page.

Non-resident ads: \$5.00 for ¼ page, \$10.00 for ½ page, \$15.00 for ¾ page and \$20.00 for a full page.

Political ads: \$15.00 for ½ page and \$30.00 for a full page. (Political ads must include the name of the payer.)

Ads: email (preferably pdf file) to montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com, put in the MB box at the Library, or mail to: **Montgomery Mountain Breeze, c/o Grace Hall Memorial Library, 161 Main Road, Montgomery, MA 01085-9525.** Include your name and phone number. Payment must be received by deadline date (usually on the 16th of the month) or ad will not be run. No cash, please; make check payable to Montgomery Mountain Breeze and put in the MB box at the Library, or mail to above address.

MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

Editor: T.Lak 413-237-2818

Helen Allyn * Chris Brown * Laurie Flechsig * Beulah Kidrick *
 Paula Long * Julie Pike * Jane Thielen

montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com

The Grille is *the place* to meet your neighbors!

Winter is still here...



and please, no talk about spring is right around the corner.

We all know better.

**So to fight off the cold and to keep you well balanced on the ice,
EAT HEAVY!**

Word is out there is a Restaurant in Montgomery. Lets keep that to ourselves but come in and try some nice hot homemade soup and say hi.
If you are any of the big town media that have visited our town recently. Please do as the great Dion Warwick sang and "walk on by". If we want any fake news we can make it up ourselves.

Many thanks, Scott and my always pleasant co-workers.

**Montgomery
Grille**

AT THE MONTGOMERY MARKETPLACE

**46 Main Rd, Montgomery, MA
862- (FOOD) 3663**

**HOURS: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:
5:30 am to 2:30 pm**

**Saturday and Sunday: 6:00 am to 2:30 pm
Lunch starts 11:00 am**

Closed Mondays & Tuesdays

TOWN REPORT COVER CONTEST

The Selectboard of the Town of Montgomery is looking for images to be considered for the cover of the 2017 Montgomery Annual Town Report. The contest is open to Montgomery middle and high school students. The drawing should be done in black and white, and done on an 8.5 x 11 inch paper leaving room at the top for the Town Clerk to print Town of Montgomery and the year. It should represent a landmark of the town or anything else such as an animal, landscaping, etc. as long as it was sketched of something you have seen in Montgomery. **The drawing must be submitted to the Town Clerk or to the Library by April 15th in a larger envelope as it cannot be folded. Please put your name, address and phone number on the envelope.** If selected the winner will receive a \$50 gift card to Barnes & Noble and your drawing will be printed on the cover of the 2017 Annual Report.

For more information contact the **Town Clerk, Judy Murphy @ 862-4478**, or ask **Jane Thielen at the Town Hall office.**

Montgomery Fire Department Thanks You

The Montgomery Fire Department would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who generously donated money in memory of our Chief, Stephen P. Frye.

A portion of the donated money has been set aside to fund a perpetual scholarship in Chief Frye's name.

The scholarship will be awarded yearly to a graduating Montgomery High School Senior. Applications are available through the Gateway guidance office or can be requested by email to: pikespeaksanta@yahoo.com.

Non-Gateway students may request an application from the Montgomery Fire Department – (contact Dan Flechsig @ 862-8095 or email: pikespeaksanta@yahoo.com) Deadline for submitting applications is May 1st.

Additional donations to the Scholarship Fund in Memory of Chief Frye can be sent to:

Montgomery Fire Department
attn.: Scholarship Fund
154 Main Road
Montgomery, Mass. 01085

State senate passes crossbow hunting bill

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Senate passed Senate Bill 2249, An Act relative to the use of crossbows in hunting. The bill, filed by Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer), aims to expand the eligibility for crossbow hunting.

Current hunting laws only allow the use of crossbows for individuals with documented medical disabilities. Under this legislation, Massachusetts would join 32 other states that currently allow crossbow hunting for non-disabled individuals.

"In recent years, interest in crossbow hunting has grown as the technology has become more user-

friendly and safe," said Senator Donald F. Humason, Jr (R-Westfield). "I have long worked alongside the hunting community in Western Massachusetts to move this legislation forward so I am very happy the proposal has received the approval of the Senate."

Significant technological and safety improvements have increased the popularity and use of crossbows as a hunting device. Lifting the prohibition on crossbows would open up hunting to individuals who lack the ability or strength to pull back a traditional bow and arrow, yet who do not have a documented medical disability.

CULTURAL COUNCIL 2018 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Littleville Fair
Jeryllyn Beauregard, Gateway Choir
Steve Henderson
Gregory Maichack (Monet's Lilies)
Roger Tincknell (Irish Music)
North Hall Association
Chester Theatre Company
Sevenar's Concerts
Hilltown Families
Renee Mosher, Littleville Music
Blandford Fair Art Show
Mark Donovan, Gateway Art

Condolences

Janet Goodman, Former Town Librarian passes away

Janet (Pond) Goodman died Dec. 5, 2017 in South Dartmouth, MA at the age of 96. Janet and her husband, Bob lived in Montgomery for many years. She was our Town Librarian and played a very large part in the addition/renovation of the Town Hall and Library complex, securing several grants to help pay for the project as well as serving on the building committee. Janet and Bob were avid volunteers in our Town who served on numerous committees and were always repairing something. Janet was also the driving force behind the lovely little gardens around the Church, Historical Society and Town Hall.

Janet moved to Little Compton, RI shortly after Bob passed away in 1999. Soon, she began volunteering at their little library and learned bookbinding, repairing hundreds of their books. At her family's request, donations in Janet's memory may be sent to Grace Hall Memorial Library, 161 Main Road, Montgomery, MA 08085 or to Brownell Library, 44 Commons, P.O. Box 146, Little Compton, RI 02837. A more complete obituary for Janet can be found at the Grace Hall Memorial Library, Montgomery.

WMass Master Gardener Spring Symposium announced

The 22nd annual Western Mass Master Gardener Spring Symposium will take place **Sat. Mar. 24, 2018**. It is offered at Holyoke High School in Holyoke. The hours are from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. There are 18 gardening and related topics in three sessions of 6. Preregistration is necessary. For \$30 you can pick three different topics such as: Space saving gardening – Ron Kujawski; Saving our Pollinators – Tom Sullivan; Medicinal Herbs – Jade Alicandro Mace; Naturescaping – Deb Windoloski; Meadow Gardens – Leslie

GardenNews

by Chris Brown



Duthie; Gardening Techniques for Older Gardeners – Joan Simmons and many more topics. Lunch is also available for \$6.00.

Flyers are located at the Montgomery Library or by going to www.WMMGA.org

for a registration form. On the web site, you can also find registration forms for two other garden symposiums offered by the Master Gardeners.

For more information, you can call Chris Brown at 862-4591.

HAM/SWISS/POTATO SCALLOP by Chris Brown

1 cup shredded Swiss cheese	½ cup green onions	3 cups diced cooked ham
1 Tbsp. dill weed	6 Tbsp. margarine	1 cup soft bread crumbs
2 Tbsp. flour	1 tsp. salt	Paprika
2 cups milk	4 lg. potatoes, cooked & sliced	

Mix cheese, onions & scallions and set aside. Melt 2 Tbsp. margarine & blend in flour & salt. Gradually add milk & cook, stirring, until smooth and thickened. Put 1/3 potatoes in 2 ½ qt. casserole (spray with cooking spray) and add ½ ham. Top with ½ cheese mixture and ½ sauce. Repeat layers, ending with layer of potatoes. Melt remaining margarine and mix with crumbs. Sprinkle on casserole and bake in 350 degree oven for about 45 minutes. Sprinkle with paprika. Make 6 servings.

FEBRUARY RECIPE



Outside the bird feeder with Lori Conley

HOW WILD BIRDS KEEP WARM IN THE WINTER

Bird Body Temperatures

Birds are warm-blooded animals that have a much higher metabolism, and thus higher body temperature, than humans.

While the exact measurement varies for different bird species, the average bird's body temperature is 105 degrees Fahrenheit.

Body temperature can fluctuate during the day, but it can be a challenge for birds to maintain such a high body heat when temperatures dip severely. Smaller birds are particularly at risk. Even the smallest birds, however, have several ways they can efficiently keep warm.

What Wild Birds Do to Keep Warm

Birds have many physical and behavioral adaptations to keep warm.

Physical Adaptations

Feathers: Birds' feathers provide remarkable insulation against the cold, and many bird species grow extra feathers as part of a late fall molt to give them thicker protection in the winter. The oil that coats birds' feathers from their uropygial gland also provides insulation as well as waterproofing.

Legs and Feet: Birds' legs and feet are covered with specialized scales that minimize heat loss. Birds can also control the temperature of their legs and feet separately from their bodies by constricting blood flow to their extremities, thereby reducing heat loss.

Fat Reserves: Even small birds can build up fat reserves to serve as insulation and extra energy for generating body heat. Many birds will gorge during the fall when food sources are abundant, giving them an extra fatty layer before winter arrives.

Helping Keep Birds Warm

Even with all these adaptations to conserve heat and stay warm, many birds still succumb to frigid temperatures and bird mortality can be very high during severe winters. Birders who know how can help their backyard flocks have an edge over the cruelest weather.

Offer Good Food: Offering the best winter bird foods means selecting seeds, suet, nuts, peanut butter, scraps and other items high in fat and calories to give birds plenty of energy to generate more body heat.

Keep Feeders Full: After a long, cold night birds need ready access to food to replenish their energy reserves. Keep bird feeders full of nutritious seed no matter what the weather so the birds know where to go for a high energy meal.

Offer Liquid Water: Birds can melt snow to drink if necessary, but doing so will use precious energy that is needed to maintain body heat. If the birds can drink from a heated bird bath even in freezing temperatures, they will have a much better chance at survival.

Provide Shelter: Plant evergreen shrubs and coniferous trees that will provide suitable shelter throughout the winter, or build a brush pile to give birds a safe, sheltered place to roost. Adding a roost box to your yard is also helpful.

When temperatures start to dip, it isn't necessary to worry about how birds keep warm. Birders who understand those adaptations and help birds with even better food, shelter and other necessities, however, will be sure to enjoy warm and healthy backyard birds no matter how cold it is outside.

Article from "The Spruce"

Annual Historical Society Penny Social announced

Greetings, everyone! Happy Valentine's Day and Presidents Day!

Members and friends of your Montgomery Historical Society met in early January for a "night out" at Paisano's Restaurant in Southampton, enjoying a delicious meal and lively conversation. This once-a-year excursion to a restaurant allows the folks who put on the two annual dinners for the Historical Society – the cooks and the dishwashers – to have a fun night out without having to do the prep and cleanup for a change! So sorry if you were unable to join us for a good time!

NEXT UP: The town's annual Penny Social hosted by your Historical Society will happen on **Saturday, March 17** at the Town Hall, with a **snow date of (Sat.) March 24**. It's time to gather up your donations and help out this great cause! **The bidding starts at 6:30 p.m.** and continues until all the items are gone. If you're tired of winter (as we are), this is the perfect way to break out the "Happies" and enjoy some fun – even the youngsters will have items exclusively for them to bid on!

Participants are encouraged to come early when the **doors open at 5:45 p.m.** to look over the items offered, choose your seat(s), buy your penny tickets, maybe pick up some refreshments, and get yourselves ready for an entertaining evening. FYI, if the weather is uncooperative, the Penny Social will occur on the following **Saturday, March 24 – same time, same place**. Refreshments will be available throughout the evening, as usual.

We are also looking for some help: The success of this annual fund-raiser depends on the committee coming up with lots of items to be available for the bidding. Would you possibly be willing to donate any **NEW OR "GENTLY-USED" ARTICLES** that would be appropriate for this event? This can include artwork, knick-knacks, food items or groupings like baskets of breakfast items or spaghetti dinners, or bath,

Historical Happenings



gardening or other items. There will be separate bidding for the children – because they love to select their own "prizes," so we also ask you to consider donating kids' items, such as toys, games, or stuffed animals. **(PLEASE, ONLY IF CLEAN AND LIKE NEW!)**

Maybe you recently received a gift you don't know what to do with, or have tired of some home décor? Please consider if it is in good condition and might be a suitable donation for the Penny Social! All donations will be much appreciated!

Pickup of donations may be arranged by **calling Laurie (862-8095) or Julie (862-4539)**. Donations of items will also be gratefully accepted on the day of the Penny Social at the **Town Hall between 1:00 and 3:30 p.m.** while the committee is setting up the hall for the event. (Other donation times may be available by appointment as well – please call us!)

Committee members **will be visiting area businesses** for donations to the Penny Social. Gift certificates from local restaurants and for gift items from numerous local merchants will be solicited. **Special note to Montgomery and other local residents:** we'd also love to promote YOUR local business and "get your name out there," so please consider donating a gift certificate from your own business (or in the name of your business).

Be sure to put these date(s) on your calendar and join us for a fun evening! Our regular attendees find it's just the answer to the "winter blahs" after all the looong nights and cooold days...You can count on having a good time there!

As always, events and activities planned by your Montgomery Historical Society are open to everyone – your participation is most welcome!

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 17 AT 6:30 P.M. AND THE SNOW DATE, MARCH 24 (6:30 P.M.)

The Grace Hall Memorial Library at the Town Hall complex, Montgomery Center, houses a display case donated several years ago by Helen Allyn and the late Susan Allyn. The Montgomery Historical Society acts as curator of exhibits there, rotating displays every six to eight weeks. The exhibits are often from individuals' private collections and may include historical/archival materials wherever possible. Anyone from the Town or outlying areas who has some items they would like to show to Library patrons and other visitors is encouraged to call Laurie (862-8095) to discuss timing of their display.

The current exhibit in the display case contains a variety of milk glass loaned by a former resident of Montgomery who is happy to share the items she has collected over the years with everyone. The exhibit will be there through February, so we recommend that you visit the Library to borrow a good book or other media, and check out the display while you're there. Thank you for your consideration!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Jeanne Aras
Jennifer Arvanitis
Henry Bisbee IV
Chris Brown
Ryan Bucko
Fran Bush
Roger Chapman
Adam Cruickshank
Dan Flechsig, Sr.

Nathan Galipeau
Tom Gill
Bill Hughes
Charles Kenyon
Geraldine Larrabee
Donny Masciadrelli
Nicholas Moses
Gennie Schenna
Michael Shelnut
Geoffrey Sobotka, Jr.
Nancy Spencer

Dale Stanisewski
Paige Stomski
Pete Wilcox
Tim Wolcott

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Cheryl & Donny
Masciadrelli
Julie & Bob Pike
Karen & Dennis
Wassung



View the current and back issues of the Montgomery MT Breeze at the Town of Montgomery website:

montgomeryma.gov

Irene, formerly of (HAIR Ltd) welcomes everyone to visit her at

ROYAL NAILS & SPA

617 E Main St., Westfield, MA • 413-478-6253 • 415-642-8002

VALENTINES SPECIAL

(NEW CLIENTS, 1st VISIT w/Courtny.)



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(Includes color, hi lights, Blow out's, etc.)

♥ Spray Tanning \$19.99 (Full body.)

♥ Offers good till 2/17/18 w/Courtny.
Mention this ad for your discount.



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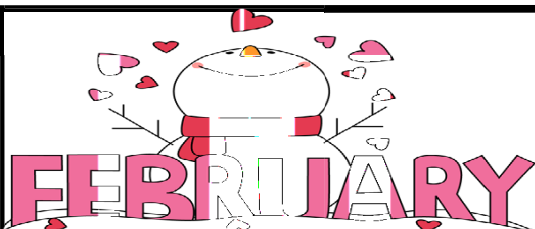
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Library News

facebook.com/
gracehallmemorial

**February
2018**

A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to put its pants on. ~Winston Churchill

Kids Winter Break Events

Feb. 20 at 6 pm

Jay Makita's Playful Engineers traveling makerspace. This hands on workshop using zip-lines, ping pong catapults, exploding popsicle stick snakes, domino pyramids, and other Rube Goldberg machines to learn engineering.

Feb. 22 at 4:30 pm

Ed the Wizard returns with a new Balloon Twisting TWO. This Hands on workshop will take on new skills and techniques that you might have learned in his other workshops

Winter Events at the Library

March 29 Birds of New England Swamp , Photographer Peter Christopher

May 12 "1908 tea Party" with Rita

here. Beginners are WELCOME!



ADULTS

Valentine Card Workshop with Sandie Mann

Make up to 4 whimsical cards

Feb. 3 and 10 at 10am—please preregister at the library before Feb. 1

So Many new titles! Too many to list here! Stop in the library and see!

**Trustees Meeting Feb.
8 at 6:30 PM**

Museum Passes

Old Sturbridge Village
Springfield Quad
Norman Rockwell
Mystic Aquarium
Deerfield Historical Mu-
USS Constitution
DCR State Park Pass
MassMoCa

Hours

Tues: 10– 5:30
Thurs: 4-8
Sat: 9:30-12:30

Contact

Mail

161 Main Road, Montgomery, MA
01085

Phone

413-862-3894

email

Montgomerylibrary
@yahoo.com

Website

montgomeryma.gov

wghl.masscat.org

facebook.com/gracehallmemorial

commonwealthcatalog.org

NEW DATE!

"How to Thrive While Creating a Sustainable World – We Can Do This!"

April 12th at 7 p.m.

Ellen Moyer's talk and slide presentation – "How to Thrive While Creating a Sustainable World – We Can Do This!" – originally scheduled for January 18 had to be rescheduled due to last minute equipment problems. Sincere apologies to anyone who was inconvenienced. Please mark you calendars, and we hope to see you there.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Serving the Citizens of Montgomery

February 2018

Calendar

Sat – Feb 10 “Mabel and Jerry” – 1 p.m.

Tue – Feb 13 Coffee Hour – 10 a.m.

Tue – Feb 27 Coffee Hour – 10 a.m.

Osteoporosis Exercise Class

Town Hall – Friday – 9:30 – 11am

February Birthdays

William Hughes

Judith Keniston

Frances Bush

Robert Talbot

Genevieve Schenna

Geraldine Larrabee

Mabel & Jerry

By Steve Henderson

Saturday, February 10 at 1:00 pm

The COA will celebrate Valentine’s Day by presenting a comedy in one act by Steve Henderson.

Jerry and Mabel are two hysterically comical people with a lust for life, determined to find excitement, humor and especially love any way they can. Think Romeo and Juliet meet Burns and Allen.

This performance, free and open to the public, will take place in the Town Hall on Saturday, February 10th, starting at 1pm. For more information please call 862-3257. This performance funded, in part, by a grant from the Montgomery Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Meals On Wheels – Highland Valley Elder Services – Donation requested 800-322-0551 or 413-586-2000

Veteran’s Agent – Daniel Flechsig – 862-8095

Outreach – Ginger Cruickshank – 862-4932

Senior “Circuit Breaker” Tax Credit

Certain seniors who pay taxes on the residential property they own or rent are eligible for a refundable tax credit.

What to know

As a senior citizen, you may be eligible to claim a refundable credit on your personal state income tax return. The Circuit Breaker tax credit is based on the actual real estate taxes paid on the Massachusetts residential property you own or rent and occupy as your principal residence.

The maximum credit amount for 2017 is \$1,080. If the credit you’re owed exceeds the amount of the total tax payable for the year, you’ll be refunded the additional amount of the credit without interest.

Who is eligible

- You must be a Massachusetts resident or part-year resident.
- You must be 65 or older by December 31.
- You must file a Massachusetts personal income tax return.
- You must own or rent residential property in Massachusetts and occupy it as your primary residence.
- For the tax year, your total Massachusetts income doesn’t exceed.
 - \$57,000 for a single individual who is not the head of a household
 - \$72,000 for a head of household
 - \$86,000 for married couples, filing a joint return.
- If you are a homeowner, your Massachusetts property tax payments, together with half of your water and sewer expense, must exceed 10% of your total Massachusetts income for the tax year.
- If you are a renter, 25% of your annual Massachusetts rent must exceed 10% of your total Massachusetts income for the tax year.

Who is not eligible

- You are a nonresident.
- You are married and your status is married filing separately.
- You are a dependent of another taxpayer.
- You receive a federal and/or state rent subsidy or you rent from a tax-exempt entity.
- For the tax year, the assessed value of principal resident exceeds \$747,000.

Zodiac Sign – Aquarius/Pisces

Flower – Violet/Primrose

Birthstone – Amethyst

MEMA – Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

WINTER HEATING SAFETY

The recent extremely cold temperatures have demonstrated the potential dangers associated with utilizing 'alternative' methods to heat your home, particularly if you lose your primary heating source due to a power outage or to lack of fuel. Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. Many of these home fires are caused by the improper use of space heaters, as well as fireplaces and wood stoves. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) advises the following heating and carbon monoxide tips to help stay safe this winter season:

Portable Heaters

- Only use portable heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Keep anything that can burn such as bedding, clothing and curtains at least three feet away from the heater.
- Plug portable heaters directly into outlets. Never plug a portable heater into an extension cord or power strip.
- Turn heaters off when going to bed or leaving the room.

Fireplaces

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks jumping out.
- Do not burn paper in the fireplace.
- Put the fire out before going to sleep or leaving the home.
- Put ashes in a metal container with a lid, outside, at least three feet from the home.

Wood Stoves

- Have the chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.
- Make sure the wood stove is three feet away from anything that can burn.
- Do not burn paper in the wood stove.
- Put the fire out before going to sleep or leaving the home.

Carbon Monoxide

- When using heaters that require fuel, install a carbon monoxide detector.

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